

**Carriker's 'Notes on Costa Rican Formicariidæ.'**—These notes<sup>1</sup> record *Myrmotherula axillaris* (Vieill.) as new to Costa Rica; give *Drymophila stictoptera* Lawr. as the male of *D. lemosticta* Salvin; raise *Myrmelastes exsul occidentalis* Cherrie to a full species; and discuss the range in Central America of the light and dark forms of *Cercomacra tyrannina*.—J. A. A.

**Craig on the Voice in Pigeons as a Means of Social Control.**<sup>2</sup>—The author considers (1) Social Development of the Young; (2) Social Life of Breeding Birds; (3) Social Relations outside of the Family. The present paper is announced as preliminary to a book on the general subject of the development of bird songs which the author hopes soon to publish, giving the results of several years of investigation of the subject. His conclusions are that utility of the voice in birds is of much wider scope than has hitherto been suspected. "The voice," he observes, "is a means of social control: that is to say, the voice is a means of influencing the behavior of individuals so as to bring them into coöperation, one with another." The illustrations are here drawn from the domestic pigeon. He claims that a bird is not "the good machine that naturalists have supposed it to be. No internal machinery, no system of instincts, be it ever so perfect, could carry an individual dove through the vicissitudes of social life without the agency of social control... what is meant is, that to treat the behavior as instinctive is to give it an inadequate description. The inadequacy consists in studying the individuals, and in treating the individual as a distinct entity. What is needed is, to transcend this individualistic view point, and to see that the instincts of the individual can effect their purposes only when they are guided and regulated by influences from other individuals." The song is considered as one means of social control, and its uses are found to be numerous and complexly inter-related, of which a partial list is given.—J. A. A.

**Taverner and Swales on the Birds of Point Pelee, Ontario.**<sup>3</sup>—Point Pelee, near the western end of Lake Erie, "forms the most southern point of the main land of the Canadian Dominion." It is V-shaped, two long low sandbars enclosing a "swamp of varying degrees of wetness," and several small ponds, while portions are wooded. It thus forms a resort for all classes of birds. It also seems to form a well marked migration route for a large area to the northward, and is further, according to the authors, tinged with such intrusive southern forms as the Cardinal, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Carolina Wren, which "have

<sup>1</sup> Notes on Costa Rican Formicariidæ, By M. A. Carriker, Jr. Ann. Carnegie Museum, V, No. 1, 1908, pp. 8-10.

<sup>2</sup> The Voices of Pigeons regarded as a means of social control. By Wallace Craig. Amer. Journ. of Sociology, XVI, No. 1, July, 1908, pp. 86-100.

<sup>3</sup> The Birds of Point Pelee. By P. A. Taverner and B. H. Swales. The Wilson Bulletin, Vol. XIX, 1907, pp. 37-53, 82-99, 133-153; Vol. XX, 1908, pp. 79-96 107-129. Also separate.

formed permanent settlement here." "Taken all together, the bird life of Point Pelee, the islands adjoining and the opposite American shore forms a subject of absorbing interest and ground where migrational phenomena of the Great Lakes can perhaps be studied to better advantage than anywhere else in this section."

In an introduction of about ten pages the location and the physical and biotic conditions of the locality are described in detail, following which is an extensively annotated list of 209 species positively identified as occurring in this limited area. Supplemental notes follow, with comment on hypothetical migration routes.

The list is based on the combined "Notes of the members of the Great Lakes Ornithological Club, a small organization formed for the purpose of coöperation and intensive study of the birds of the Great Lakes Region," the observers particularly mentioned including, besides the authors, W. E. Saunders, J. H. Fleming, A. B. Klugh, J. E. Keays, and others.—J. A. A.

**Rockwell on the Birds of Mesa County, Colorado.**<sup>1</sup>—This carefully compiled list<sup>1</sup> "includes 203 species, 159 of which have been definitely recorded for Mesa County, while the remaining 44 species. . . will probably be reported from there in the future." They are wide-ranging species, included on the basis of their known occurrence in contiguous districts, and are distinguished by being printed in smaller type than the others. The list is based primarily on the author's knowledge of the birds of the county gained during a residence there of two entire years and portions of six others, his observations being supplemented by information contributed by a considerable number of other observers, as duly accredited in the list. The list is offered as a "purely preliminary" one, but forms a very substantial basis for future additions. The nomenclature is only in part brought down to the basis of A. O. U. Fourteenth Supplement, which possibly was not available at the time the list went to press.—J. J. A.

**Bryan on the Birds of Molokai.**<sup>2</sup>—This paper is the outcome of a collecting trip in the mountains of Molokai, Hawaiian Islands, during two months in 1907 (April 15–June 15), for the purpose of obtaining material for the Bishop Museum. One of the primary objects of the expedition was to secure specimens of the Hoa or Black Mamo (*Drepanorhamphus funereus*), the search for which proved successful, three specimens being obtained, although it has of late been supposed to be extinct. There is also a long

<sup>1</sup> An Annotated List of the Birds of Mesa County, Colorado. By Robert B. Rockwell. The Condor, Vol. X, No. 4, July–August, 1908, pp. 152–180, 2 maps, and 9 half-tone illustrations.

<sup>2</sup> Some Birds of Molokai. By Wm. Alanson Bryan, formerly Curator of Ornithology and Taxidermist in the Bishop Museum. Occas. Papers of the B. P. Bishop Museum, Vol. IV, No. 2, 1908, pp. 43–86, with a map and 7 half-tone full-page illustrations.